

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
ACDA-12 OMB-01 COME-00 NRC-07 EB-08 OES-07 /107 W  
-----108133 041306Z /14

R 032009Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6414  
INFO USDOE WASHDC  
USDOE GERMANTOWN  
DEPARTMENT TRANSPORTATION  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL BREMEN

UNCLAS BONN 03923

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, TECH, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN NUCLEAR VESSEL, OTTO HAHN

1. THE GERMAN NUCLEAR VESSEL, OTTO HAHN WHICH WENT INTO SERVICE IN 1968 IS STILL OPERATING ON THE HIGH SEAS. EVERY FOUR YEARS THE NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENTS MUST BE REPLACED. THE NEXT REFUELING IS DUE THIS YEAR, AT A COST, INCLUDING MAINTENANCE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, OF DM 50 MILLION.

2. ACCORDING TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS, THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (BMFT) WILL NO LONGER COMPLETELY FINANCE THE OTTO HAHN. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR NUCLEAR USE IN SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPPING (GKSS) TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCUSSED THE FUTURE OF THE VESSEL AND SAID THAT FURTHER OPERATIONS OF THE OTTO HAHN WOULD DEPEND ON "OUTSIDE BODIES PARTICIPATING CONSIDERABLY IN THE COSTS INVOLVED."

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3. AN OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF THE GKSS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE GKSS WILL MAKE A DECISION AT THEIR NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING IN JUNE, 1978. FURTHER OPERATIONS OF THE OTTO HAHN DEPEND ON WHETHER THE INDUSTRY (SHIPOWNING COMPANIES, PRODUCERS OF NUCLEAR COMPONENTS, ETC.) WOULD PAY 50 PERCENT OF

THE COSTS INVOLVED, WITH THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZING THE OTHER 50 PERCENT.

4. BMFT OFFICIALS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT FUNDING WILL MOST LIKELY BE DECREASED SINCE IT IS NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO CONTINUE FINANCING PROJECTS WHICH ARE COMMERCIALY FEASIBLE. THE BMFT WILL MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON FUNDING THIS SPRING.

5. COMMENT: THE FRG ORIGINALLY FINANCED THE OTTO HAHN TO DETERMINE WHETHER A NUCLEAR MERCHANT SHIP WAS COMMERCIALY FEASIBLE--WITH AN EYE TOWARD ENCOURAGING THE CONSTRUCTION OF EVEN LARGER, CONTAINER VESSELS. THE CURRENT GLUT IN THE WORLD MARKET AND THE RISING COSTS OF SHIPBUILDING HAVE LED THE BMFT AND THE GKSS TO SHELVE PLANS FOR ANY FUTURE NUCLEAR VESSELS. HENCE THE BMFT RELUCTANCE TO CARRY THE FULL FUNDING OF A PROJECT WHICH, IT REGARDS, CAN BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY FINANCED THROUGH COMMERCIAL SOURCES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FINANCE, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, NUCLEAR FUELS, OTTO HAHN  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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